

I. **Listing of the Claims**

1. (Currently Amended): An adapter assembly including an axially rigid intermediate ring and a screw-in part of a fluid plug-in system, the adapter assembly comprising the screw-in part having a through-opening for plugging in a plug part, an externally threaded portion having an outer thread diameter configured for screwing into a threaded bore of a base part having a surrounding surface adjacent to a mouth of the threaded bore, an actuating shoulder having an outer shoulder diameter being larger than the thread diameter, a receiving groove formed in the transition between the actuating shoulder and the externally threaded portion, and a first sealing ring being disposed in the receiving groove; the intermediate ring being adapted to fit onto the externally threaded portion and having first and second axially opposite planar annular portions, the first planar annular portion configured to engage the actuating shoulder, and the intermediate ring having a first sealing ring seat on a first side facing the actuating shoulder, the first sealing ring seat and the receiving groove and the actuating shoulder forming a first sealing chamber for the first sealing ring, and the second planar annular portion being located at the terminal end of a lower ring step extending away from the actuating shoulder and having a planar second sealing ring seat on a side facing away from the actuating shoulder for a second sealing ring, said second sealing ring surrounding and overlapping at least one thread of the externally threaded portion of the screw-in part and said second sealing ring further having an axial length, in an optimally compressed state, substantially equal to the axial length of the lower ring step, such that, when the screw-in part is screwed into the threaded bore of the base part, ~~a second sealing chamber for~~

~~the second sealing ring is formed between the planar second sealing ring seat, the surrounding surface adjacent to the threaded bore, and the externally threaded portion of the screw-in part~~ cooperate to form a second sealing chamber for the second sealing ring.

2. (Previously Presented): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second sealing ring seats and the associated first and second sealing rings are formed such that, in a mounted state, the first and second sealing rings are compressed, wherein the second sealing ring is compressed axially without substantial radial deformation against the externally threaded portion.

3. (Previously Presented): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 1 further comprising that the first and second annular portions are separated by an internal radial annular web which divides the first and second seats from one another.

4. (Previously Presented): The intermediate ring as claimed in Claim 1 further comprising each sealing ring seat is formed by a radial step surface and an approximately conically widening delimiting surface adjacent to it on the outside.

5. (Previously Presented): The intermediate ring as claimed in Claim 1 wherein a thickness of the intermediate ring is dimensioned according to the threaded bore such that both the screw-in part and a plug holding element

mounted on the screw-in part, can be screwed into the bore to compress the first sealing ring and provide a gap between an end of the plug part and a bottom of the bore when the plug part is plugged into the screw-in part and engaged with the plug holding element.

6. (Previously Presented): The intermediate ring as claimed in Claim 1 comprising that the first annular portion is designed to be smaller in diameter than the second annular portion.

7. (Previously Presented) The intermediate ring as claimed in Claim 1 comprising the intermediate ring formed of a turned part made of metal.

8. (New): An adapter assembly for a fluid plug-in system, comprising:  
a screw-in part comprising a through-opening for plugging in a plug part, an externally threaded portion having an outer thread diameter configured for screwing into a threaded bore of a base part having a surrounding planar surface adjacent to a mouth of the threaded bore, an actuating shoulder having an outer shoulder diameter larger than the externally threaded portion diameter, and a receiving groove formed in the transition between the actuating shoulder and the externally threaded portion;

an axially rigid intermediate ring sized to fit onto the externally threaded portion of the screw-in part, an upper planar annular portion configured to engage the actuating shoulder, an upper sealing ring seat on an upper side of the intermediate ring facing the actuating shoulder, an axially opposite lower ring step

extending away from the actuating shoulder, said lower ring step terminating at a lower planar annular portion configured to engage the planar surface surrounding the area adjacent to the mouth of the threaded bore, and a lower sealing ring seat on a lower side of the intermediate ring between the lower planar annular portion and the ring threads;

an upper sealing ring disposed in an upper sealing ring chamber; and

a lower sealing ring disposed in a lower sealing ring chamber, wherein the lower sealing ring surrounds and overlaps at least one thread of the externally threaded portion of the screw-in part, and further wherein the axial length of the lower sealing ring in an optimally compressed state is substantially equal to the axial length of the lower ring step;

wherein the intermediate ring cooperates with the screw-in part to form the upper sealing chamber defined by the upper sealing ring seat, the actuating shoulder, and the receiving groove, and further wherein the intermediate ring cooperates with the base part to form the lower sealing chamber defined by the lower sealing ring seat, the externally threaded portion of the screw-in part, and the planar surface adjacent to the mouth of the threaded bore.

9. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8, wherein the upper and lower sealing ring seats and the associated upper and lower sealing rings are formed such that, in a mounted state, the upper and lower sealing rings are compressed, and further wherein the lower sealing ring is compressed axially without substantial radial deformation against the externally threaded portion.

10. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the upper and lower annular portions being separated by an internal radial annular web which divides the upper and lower seats from one another.

11. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8 further comprising each sealing ring seat being formed by a radial step surface and an approximately conically widening delimiting surface adjacent to it on the outside.

12. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8 wherein a thickness of the intermediate ring is dimensioned according to the threaded bore such that both the screw-in part and a plug holding element mounted on the screw-in part can be screwed into the bore to compress the upper sealing ring and provide a gap between an end of the plug part and a bottom of the bore when the plug part is plugged into the screw-in part and engaged with the plug holding element.

13. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the upper annular portion being smaller in diameter than the lower annular portion.

14. (New): The intermediate ring as claimed in claim 8 further comprising the intermediate ring formed of a turned part made of metal.